

chapterletter

LIBRARY
BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL CENTER



Newsletter of the Boston Society of Architects / a chapter of the American Institute of Architects / January 1977

Our January Get-Together

On January 19th, our next evening program will unfold. Early plans to book the floor show from the Two O'Clock Lounge were reluctantly abandoned in spite of their obvious promise when Lowell reminded the Program Committee of its obligation to further the cause of professional knowledge and competency. It was decided instead to hold a session on Construction Specifications, jointly sponsored by the CSI and the Producer's Council.

To make this into a bon-bon of rare delight, we have invited as our speaker the one man who can not only make specifications come alive, but in whose hands the technology of building materials becomes a three-ring circus of amusing anecdotes, priceless insights and sound knowledge. If you do not yet know who this is, you have never heard a talk by Professor Dietz.

Professor Dietz, whom we are actually enticing back from Honolulu for the evening (truly, dedication knows no bounds) is a Fellow of almost everything, has lectured everywhere, and is perhaps the world's most influential authority on the materials and technology of construction. More important to us all, he has the rare talent of imparting matchless knowledge with matchless wit which, for so august a personage, is no mean feat. When a professor emeritus at MIT who can take his pick of professional appointments accepts joint posts at the Universities of Hawaii and New South Wales (Australia), you know his heart is in the right place.



Dietz

Fellow BSA members, we of the Program Committee sincerely hope that you will take this rare opportunity to painlessly acquire new understanding of present and future breakthroughs in architectural technology. Professor Dietz is a rare man to have at our disposal, ready to answer questions, and it would be tragic indeed if we, as a Society, failed to appreciate the opportunity. See you all on January 19th, and PLEASE send your reservations in early so that Deborah can stop biting her fingernails.

Date:
Wednesday, January 19, 1977

Place:
Boston Architectural Center

Time:
6:00 PM Cocktails
7:00 PM Dinner
8:15 PM Program

Dinner is \$8.00; a reply envelope is enclosed. Reservations will be accepted until 5 PM, Monday, January 17. Space is limited. Cancellations accepted until noon, Tuesday, January 18.

Technology '77

Early Warning of May Competition

Hear ye, hear ye! Our annual architectural show will focus on Building Technology, and a novel and hopefully challenging format is being developed for the accompanying exhibit of members' work.

It is envisaged that firms will collaborate with producers in the design and execution of exhibits which illustrate a given building or future project by utilizing one of its actual components as the media. Imagine, for instance, a rendering of the John Hancock etched on a pane of its now world-famous glass! Or a slide show of your new college Music Center presented inside a short length of acoustical ductwork! Or... but it's not for us to be the designers of your exhibit: off your duffs, you renowned creators of the built environment, and get those gray cells tickling each other!

There are obvious advantages to the above approach. It is expected that producers will prove cooperative, and that they will make wide use of your new artifact, with due credit to your firm, in future promotional endeavors. It is also expected that they will wish to provide the building components in exchange for your cerebral efforts.

This is but an early warning, for good ideas, like lowly acorns, take time to grow into majestic oaks. In addition to the Exhibit just described, to be judged by appropriate design gurus and industry representatives, TECHNOLOGY '77 will feature the Awards Dinner, sundry lunches, and an extensive seminar program in which architect/moderators will be able, with assistance from their audience, to put to panels of competing producers those questions you've-always-wanted-to-know-but-were-afraid-to-ask.



Pernice

Annual Meeting MSAA

The Annual Meeting of the MSAA was held at the Storowton Tavern in West Springfield on December 2. Leon Pernice AIA, Springfield, was elected President and George M. Notter, Jr. AIA, Boston, was elected Vice President. Kendall P. Bates AIA of Cambridge continues as Secretary-Treasurer. Other members of the Executive Committee are:

Boston
Arthur W. Brown AIA
Douglas Cole Smith AIA

Central
Doak Martin AIA
Peter Panagore AIA
Joseph R. Permatteo AIA

Western
Mark L. Sirulnik AIA
David Spencer

The immediate past President, Suzanne O. Carlson AIA of Worcester, continues for one year on the Executive Committee.

The meeting approved a budget of \$13,620, an assessment of \$20 per member for 1977.

News from President Smith and the Board of Directors

1977 Committees

The following is a listing of the committees under the Professional Society Commission. A full listing of BSA committees will appear in the February Chapterletter.

If you have not been assigned to a committee but would like to serve, contact the Chapter office. Names can be added to the committee rosters at any point.

Commission on Professional Society

G. W. Terry Rankine AIA,
Commissioner

*Honors and Awards Committee

Huson Jackson FAIA, Ch.
Louis A. McMillen FAIA
Hermann H. Field FAIA
Marilyn Fraser AIA
Peter Chermayeff AIA
Sarah P. Harkness AIA

*Nominating Committee

Joseph L. Eldredge FAIA, Ch.
David G. Sheffield AIA
Robert J. Searson, Jr. AIA
Hugh Shepley FAIA
George M. Notter, Jr. AIA
Peter Steffian AIA

*Membership Committee

Frederick A. Norris AIA, Ch.
Leo F. McCormack AIA
Collin L. M. Smith AIA
Franklin B. Mead AIA
Robert W. Ouellette AIA
John L. Davies AIA

*Ethics Committee

John L. Davies AIA, Ch.
John F. Hayes AIA
Henry C. Boles AIA

*Elected Committees

Program Committee

Maximilian L. Ferro AIA, Ch.
James G. Alexander AIA
Emmanuel P. Daskalakis AIA
Fenton Hollander AIA
Leonard S. Notkin AIA
Peter Steffian AIA

Architectural Show 1977

Maximilian L. Ferro AIA, Program Ch.
Hugh Shepley FAIA, Sales Ch.
Douglas C. Smith AIA
Lowell L. Erickson

New Members

New Applicants

M. David Lee
Claude E. Menders
James Ronald Weir
William Lincoln Whitney

New Board Member

Gerald M. McCue FAIA is replacing George Anselevicius AIA as Harvard's representative to the BSA Board of Directors. Mr. McCue's term will expire in November of 1977.

New Hampshire Honor Awards

The New Hampshire Chapter of the AIA has announced the selection of two Chapter firms as recipients of the 1976 Awards Program. These awards were announced at the Chapter's annual meeting in Manchester, New Hampshire on November 13.



Vacation House
West Campton, New Hampshire
Crissman & Solomon Architects

Steve Rosenthal Photo



Student Housing
Keene State College
Keene, New Hampshire
Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott

Steve Rosenthal Photo

News from the Schools

BSA/BAC Design Workshops

The Boston Architectural Center School of Architecture is a unique institution indeed. One of its strengths is its work/study program, its contact with the profession.

There are many experienced architects who are not able to volunteer a night a week to the BAC. However, these architects deeply support the spirit of the BAC's activities.

In an effort to re-develop the relationship of yesteryear and to strengthen the link of academia with reality today, Glen A. Steer, President of the BAC Student Government, has proposed BSA/BAC Design Workshops.

These workshops would be run periodically beginning in February at the Center. Each session would feature the work of a local architect with a slide presentation by him/her and general discussion about the profession and design. These would vary in length from 2-3 hours involving 10-20 students.

The advantages of these workshops are many. The BSA and BAC will become closer, the students will be able to take advantage of the seasoned professionals' knowledge and experience and the time commitment by the individual architect will be minimal.

These workshops could be the beginning of a new expansion of the BSA/BAC relationship and a new learning experience for all.

For more information, please call Glen A. Steer at 423-0100.

BAC Library

Four of the BSA's most valuable contributions to the BAC Library this year were: Dodge Building Cost and Specification Digest, Masterspec, Legal Briefs for Architects, Engineers and Contractors, and the Environment Reporter.

The Dodge Digest is a compendium of building types, specifications and costs, enabling the builder to compare and make preliminary budgets, bids and estimates of building costs. The volume reports on over 3,000 buildings, updating itself each March and September with an additional 1,000.

There are 11 sections, each corresponding to a building type, such as "community" or "education." Each section contains a national list of researched buildings, a breakdown of their components, specifications and costs. It is an invaluable aid to the architect, engineer or builder, making readily and easily available existing costs and specifications.

Masterspec was designed by PSAE (Production Systems for Architects and Engineers, Inc.) in response to the professions' need for a national automated master specification system. The intentions were threefold: to increase proficiency within firms, unify technical practices and to develop standards of practice. The result is "voluminous and comprehensive." While it is a difficult system to use, once mastered, it proves to

be an invaluable resource, covering such diverse subjects as production cost reduction, drawing coordination, education of personnel, and effective use of automation. There are several volumes, each one carrying specification sections, associated instructions and drawing coordination notes. It is recommended that the user's manual be studied first.

The Bureau of National Affairs' multi-volume work, Environment Reporter, provides monographs and weekly updates on federal and state legislation on air, solid waste-land use, quality standards, and pollution control.

AIP Course

The American Institute of Planners Continuing Education Committee has arranged for Harvard University to offer a twelve week course this semester entitled "Revitalization of Urban Core Areas." The course will be offered on Wednesday evenings starting February 9, 1977. Guest lecturers will deal with the issues and strategies involved in revitalizing urban core areas. Case study material from Massachusetts will be extensively used. The public policy context for focusing governmental actions in such areas, as well as techniques for encouraging private investment will be covered. Also included will be presentations of strategies for mobilizing public actions, meeting social needs and coordinating various programs which can contribute to urban core revitalization.

The fee for the course is \$105. Registration dates are 1/31-2/11, Room B-3 Lehman Hall. Mail-in registration is also possible. Contact Harvard Continuing Education Center, B-3 Lehman Hall, for details.

Interface Presents R. Buckminster Fuller

Interface is presenting a weekend seminar/workshop with Buckminster Fuller on February 11, 12 and 13 at the Harvard Science Center. The seminar will include an introductory program on the evening of the 11th, followed by two full days of workshops and seminars. The intention of this program is to create a time and space to be with Buckminster Fuller on a personal, human level, and contribute to a direct interaction with this man who Marshall McLuhan calls "The Leonardo da Vinci of our time."

The cost of the seminar is \$60. For more information, please call Interface at 617/965-4491 or write Interface, 63 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02158.

The Boston Society of Architects
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Boston, Massachusetts 02115

First Class Mail

Eugene L. Morgan, AIA
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Lexington, Ma. 02173



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Calendar

January 10

Built in Boston Series
State Service Center
Boston Architectural Center
7:30 PM

January 19

Membership Dinner Meeting
Boston Architectural Center
6:00 PM

January 24

Built in Boston Series
Harvard Graduate Center
Boston Architectural Center
7:30 PM

Exhibition on Architecture for Health

The Mid-West Health Congress will hold its 50th Annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, on March 22, 23 and 24, 1977. Hospital administrators, hospital boards of trustees, planning agency officials and other hospital personnel will be in attendance from Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

Registered architects interested in exhibiting projects including hospitals, long-term care facilities, health centers, diagnostic and treatment centers, medical laboratories, doctors' office buildings, clinics, staff housing and medical research facilities should contact: John H. Lind AIA, Architects — Hansen Lind Meyer, 116 South Linn, Iowa City, Iowa 52240 (319/354-4700), no later than February 22, 1977. Models of projects are encouraged.

This meeting of an estimated 6,000 persons will be held in the new Bartle Exposition Hall in downtown Kansas City. The architectural exhibit is sponsored by the Central States Region / AIA / Architecture for Health Committee. Programming for the Congress includes many topics of special interest to architects and their clients.

Cheers and Tears



Cheers

A comprehensive but balanced system of signs brings a visual vitality to the streetscape and building facade of this recently restored complex in the downtown area of Newburyport. The signs are compatible with the architecture of the buildings and its surroundings. They are also delightfully appropriate to the type of activity to which they pertain. Our congratulations to the Newburyport officials and the redevelopment authority.



Tears

Nearby (outside the control limits of the redevelopment authority) is an older oversized sign violating the architecture of the building to which it is attached. The Newburyport officials encouraged its removal to the point of its violating access to the second and third floors. The response was to cut removable panels into the sign to provide said access. It is hoped the owner will eventually accept the intended purpose of sign control and acquiesce to a more pleasant communication between people and their environment.